

STIMULUS WATCH: WEEK 15

\$3.4 Million to be Spent Helping Turtles Cross the Road

- The Florida Department of Transportation will spend \$3.4 million in Stimulus funds to build an “eco-passage” for turtles and other animals under U.S. Highway 27 in Jackson Lake, Florida. The project will consist of a series of fences to direct turtles to a 13-foot long tunnel under the highway, helping them avoid the oncoming traffic.
- Local columnist Mark Hohmeister, acutely wrote of his co-worker’s reaction to the project, “FSU [Florida State University] is talking about laying off 200 people and we're protecting turtles?”
- Yet, even with this influx of stimulus money, the turtle tunnel project will still not be completed. Local community activists estimate the real cost of the project at \$6 million. So, rather than creating jobs, stimulus money will be spent on building half-finished turtle tunnels.
- Under the House Republican Stimulus Alternative, \$3.4 million dollars would not be spent on helping turtles cross the road. Instead, Republicans would have created twice as many jobs at half the cost. To learn how visit: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/Jobs/>
- Sources: <http://www.lakejacksonturtles.org/tdo010909.htm>
<http://www.lakejacksonturtles.org/>
http://flarecovery.com/_resources/documents/fdot-hwys-enhancement-list-4-15-09.pdf

The Washington Watch Report is available on the House Republican Whip’s website: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/WashingtonWatch/>.

It is updated weekly with new items of wasteful stimulus spending, a look at jobs created by the stimulus, and a video of Members discussing specific examples.